

To meet the college requirement for the senior integrative exercise in the Department of Political Science, a research paper from an already-completed advanced seminar is revised, with the approval and guidance of the instructor, who becomes your comps adviser. (See Department list of courses designated for comps.) In addition, you must prepare a poster based on your comps paper. The poster will be presented in a group forum.

During your senior year, you must register for a total of 6 credits of *POSC 400* (followed by section number of your comps paper adviser). These credits may be taken all in one term, or divided between two terms. The grade (*Satisfactory, No Credit, or Distinction*) will later be entered for all 6 credits.

If you have already taken an advanced seminar in your track, approach your professor as soon as possible to discuss your plans for comps. Prior approval of the instructor is required for revising the seminar paper for comps credit. If you have not yet taken a course that could be used for comps, you need to take an advanced seminar during your junior year or early in your senior year, followed by the paper revision.

Faculty members have the discretion to occasionally approve a non-designated course (e.g., a 200-level course) as the source of the comps paper (but not replacing the major requirement for 300-level course). Faculty members may also decline a student's request to use a particular seminar paper for the comps project. You need to secure the instructor's approval to use a seminar for comps. Then notify the department of your comps plans using the on-line form on the Web site at http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/posc/forms/comps_plans/.

Please note that some faculty may set prerequisites, including *POSC 230 Methods of Political Research* or other lower level courses, for a seminar in order for it to be considered as your comps paper course. Thus it is very important to discuss your comps plans with the instructor well in advance.

You will have a comps working folder on the Courses server during the term(s) you register for POSC 400. This will provide extra space for working files and can be viewed by your comps adviser as well.

The amount of revision necessary and final length of the paper will be determined in consultation with your comps adviser. The text of the final version must not exceed 30 pages (not including end matter), unless the adviser recommends a longer paper for the topic. The text should be clearly organized and divided into subsections through the use of titles and subtitles. Both scientific and literary forms of citation are acceptable. A bibliography is also required. Please use the [standard cover sheet](#) that is available on the department Web site under "Forms." It gives the department permission to copy your paper for educational purposes, while you retain copyright privileges.

Copies of papers that have received Distinction are on file in the department and may be reviewed in the lounge.

The due date for your comps paper (probably the end of the term during which you do revisions) will be determined in consultation with your comps adviser, but must be **no later than April 27, 2018**.

To receive a passing grade, the following three submissions are necessary:

1. A paper copy of the final version of the paper should be handed in to the department office.
2. A digital file of the paper should be emailed as an attachment to tpeterso@carleton.edu.
3. A digital file of your PowerPoint poster should also be emailed to tpeterso@carleton.edu.

Distinction and the Departmental Colloquium

Students whose papers have been nominated for Distinction are required either to give an oral presentation to faculty and students in the department, or a "closed oral examination" administered by two members of the faculty. In the presentation, students must not only state the findings of their research but also show, in response to questions, that they are able to relate their particular research to broader issues of political science.

To be awarded Distinction in the major, students must receive both Distinction in the integrative exercise and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 in all courses taken in the department.